

# CITY OF GREENBELT, MARYLAND

## DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION

99 CENTERWAY, GREENBELT, MARYLAND 20770



**Julianna J. McHale**  
Director

**TO:** Mayor Jordan and the Greenbelt City Council  
**FROM:** Senior Citizens Advisory Committee  
**RE:** Open Forum of September 27, 2014  
**DATE:** December 5, 2014

Attached is the Senior Citizens' Advisory Committee's Report from the Senior Citizen Open Forum held September 27, 2014.

We felt the 2014 Open Forum went well. *Safety and Security* as well as *Community Concerns* were the major topic areas. As you will see in the attached report, these primary areas of interest are identified with the specific issues under each heading.

The SCAC feels that it is unnecessary to hold a work session this year, but some follow-up response in regards to the report recommendations would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Paula Williams  
Senior Citizens Advisory Committee Chair, November, 2013 - October 2014

## A NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK

Administration: (301) 397-2200 FAX: (301) 397-2203 Youth Center: (301) 397-2200

Aquatic and Fitness Center: (301) 397-2204 Springhill Lake Recreation Center: (301) 397-2212 Community Center: (301) 397-2208

[www.greenbeltmd.gov](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov)



## Senior Citizens Advisory Committee

### ANNUAL OPEN FORUM REPORT TO COUNCIL

Held September 27, 2014

Attendance 43

(Boxwood: 4; Charlestown Village: 1; GHI: 17; Greenbriar: 4; Greenbrook Estates: 1; Greenspring: 2; Lakeside: 1; Windsor Green: 2; other: 8)

#### POSITIVE COMMENTS:

- Beautiful landscaping.
- Great activities for everyone.
- New signage for Police Department is great.
- Greenbelt is a community.
- Walkable place.
- People help those that need help.
- New Deal movies.
- Senior Programs – Golden Age Club
- Active Aging Week (with passports) was great.
- Ageless Grace – persons with special needs are encouraged to participate.
- SAGE classes.
- GHI is great.

The above positive comments were made during the Annual Senior Citizens' Open Forum on September 27, 2014. During the Forum announcements from the Police Department, Planning and Community Development, GAIL program and the Recreation Department were made. The issues below were raised and discussed. From these issues, the Senior Citizens Advisory Committee identified two categories: 1) Safety and Security; 2) Community Concerns. These categories are listed below with the issues raised at the forum listed underneath each item. The italicized text is information that was given at the forum. Addendum A has follow up information regarding some of the issues.

#### **SAFETY AND SECURITY:**

1. The Spellman Overpass is a safety concern due to recent incidences like the armed robbery.  
*Captain Kemp described the incident and asked individuals to notify the Police Department of other City "hot spots".*

2. Drivers have concerns because pedestrian are texting while walking. Crescent and Gardenway as well as the Greenbriar parking lots near the overpass are particular areas of concern.
3. Fraudulent activities, phone scams, identity theft, etc. are becoming more prevalent.

*George Mathews described some of the new ways of scamming and handed out an informational booklet so individuals can be aware of how to protect themselves.*

#### **COMMUNITY CONCERNS:**

1. The half telephone poles in Greenbelt need to be removed.
2. Curb in Co-Op parking lot is improperly placed. (Street of “no-name”)
3. Audio on Greenbelt Cable station is sometimes inaudible.  
*Mr. McLaughlin said to call the city offices when this occurs to let them know.*
4. Getting information out to residents in Greenbelt East and West is a challenge. Recreation Department brochures are needed in other areas of Greenbelt.
5. Finding Greenbelt Access Television’s (GATE) schedule is almost impossible.

The Senior Citizen’s Advisory Committee does not require a work session with council to discuss this report but our recommendations are below.

#### **SCAC Recommendations:**

1. Get the half telephone poles removed.
2. The City needs to find a way to get more people from Greenbelt East and Greenbelt West involved in City programs and services.

## ADDENDUM A

### Community Concerns #2:

Email sent to Celia Craze on 11/19/14 regarding this issue:

Hi Celia,

If you recall, at the Senior Open Forum, Jean Snyder raised an issue about the curb in the Co-Op parking lot that she says is often hit by vehicles. The curb she was talking about is the one on the edge of the median in the Co-Op parking lot. If you drive your car from Crescent Road, turn in by the gas station, then turn right to go to the CO-Op, continue straight through without parking, the curb is the one on the right at the edge of the median strip where you have to turn right or left. Turning right to head towards Parkway the curb often gets hit by vehicles.

Is there anything that can or should be done about this? Since Mrs. Snyder has raised this issue in the past, the Senior Citizen's Advisory Committee would like to get an official response on this issue. If the curb needs to stay as it is, we'd like to know the reason so we can pass this information on to Mrs. Snyder.

Thanks so much for your help and information.

Karen Haseley, CTRS, Certified Ageless Grace Educator  
TR Supervisor  
City of Greenbelt, MD  
240-542-2054

### Community Concerns #4:

Greg Varda, Assistant Director of Recreation Programs, stated that Recreation Department Brochures are hand delivered to Home Owners Associations, but many times there is no one there to accept and distribute them.